



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham—Registered Charity No. 234216

Parish Priest: **Father Mathew Pinakkattu** : 07788790928 Email: stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 22nd January Year A Volume 1 Page 1

Almighty, ever living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son, we may abound in good works.

Parish Mission Statement

We, the members of St Gerard's R.C. Church, are baptised in Jesus Christ, empowered by the spirit, nurtured in community, and nourished by prayer, word and sacrament. Therefore, for the greater glory of God, we proclaim for all people the saving message of the Gospel, and joyfully share our time, talent and resources, in works of mercy and justice, both within and beyond our parish community.

Mass Times

Sunday 22nd January
Third Sunday in Ordinary
Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy

Monday 23rd January

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 24th January

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 25th January

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 26th January

Mass 10.00am

Friday 27th January

School Mass 9.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 28th January

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 29th January

Third Sunday in Ordinary
Time

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy



Themes for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

In today's gospel we see Jesus moving from his private, hidden life into public ministry. Discerning that John's imprisonment is a call to him from the Father, he responds immediately, with his whole heart. Jesus knows, first-hand, what life is like under occupation. All his life, Galilee has been ruled by dark, imperial powers. Now, Jesus is offering the people a light to navigate by. His is a saving presence which invites people (which does not exclude those gentile occupiers) into God's kingdom rule. Through Jesus, God is intervening in the world in a way that the world has never seen before and the call of the disciples to a share in this new way of working shows that God's own empire is very close indeed. This gospel is also a call to me, to try to discern the way forward with God. In what ways do I try to read the signs of the times, and does what I 'read' fill me with dread and fear? Or does it throw me onto the One who calls himself a great light, who offers hope and a sense of direction? Do I feel invited to share in the work for the kingdom, and what is this new work I am called to? I can't do everything but, if I look, I will find someone I know, even now, experiencing something of the shadow of death - sickness, loneliness, the cost of living, depression, conflict - who is in desperate need of some good news. Today, I may very well be their only glimmer of light.

Father God, help me know the closeness of your kingdom, help me discern the insistence of your call, and help me to respond to you immediately with extraordinary generosity and a heart full of trust. Amen.

RIP-Pope Benedict XVI

"I pray for the repose of the soul of His Holiness Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI as his long life of devoted service comes to a close. May he now enjoy forever the company of the saints and the reward of all the Lord's good and faithful servants. I recall with gratitude the warmth and impact of Pope Benedict's presence during his State Visit in 2010 and especially during his visit to Birmingham for the Beatification of Cardinal Newman. He showed us the love of the pastor's heart which had guided his ministry as priest, as bishop and as Supreme Pastor. I am grateful for the prayerful way that he supported his successor Pope Francis, continuing to promote the unity and mission of the Church. On behalf of the clergy, Religious and all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Birmingham I offer our condolences and pray that Emeritus Pope Benedict may rest in peace with the risen Lord" **Archbishop Bernard Longley**

Offertory

15th January 2023

GA	£68.00
NGA	£85.67
100 club	£150.00

Total Banked £303.67

Thankyou



Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Pope Benedict XVI: Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Margaret Ludlow, Isabell Walsh, Mary Walsh, Isabel Hackett, Rose Cogan, Andrew Trueman, Eileen Morrissey, Mary Quilty, Mark Ford, Kath Taylor, Stan Oliver, Frances Irwin, George Irwin, Jean Chambers, Debbie Johnson, Perry Desmond, Philip Fox, Kevin Hollis, Tina Parkes and all the sick priests of the diocese. May the Lord grant them the healing they require.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for a particular intention: on behalf of a family member, a friend or a deceased loved one, to remember a birthday or anniversary, envelopes are available at the back of church or email Fr Mathew.

PASTORAL

Hospital Chaplaincy: If you or a family member is in hospital and would like a visit by a Priest or Eucharistic Minister please inform the parish office.

Baptism: A parent of the child to be baptised must be baptised, attend Sunday Mass regularly and undertake the preparation meetings. Please see Fr after Mass to discuss your request. You will be required to attend a preparation course before confirming any date for baptism so please bear this in mind in preparing for the child's baptism.

Marriage: Please contact Fr Mathew initially to discuss your request for marriage. This must be done before Fr can agree any dates with you as you will be required to attend wedding preparation classes.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for a particular intention: on behalf of a family member, a friend, a deceased loved one, to remember a birthday or anniversary, envelopes are available at the back of church.

Communion to the Sick and the Housebound: Please speak to Fr if you know of anyone who is unable to come to Mass and would like to receive Communion.

Who's Who?

Parish Safeguarding and Health and

Safety Officer: Hayley Macilwraith:

07840 866201

Parish Administrator: Sue Perkins:

07971 076835

Young Persons Officer: Therese

Mimboe: 07897 530915

Parish Finance and Premises

Committee: Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue

Byrne, Therese and Frank.

Pastoral Committee is led by Shirley.

Social Committee: Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue.



Please keep our children, teachers and staff in your prayers as they settle into school after their Christmas Break. May the joy of Christmas remain with them as they begin a new term. We look forward to seeing the

new Altar Servers back on the Altar and the younger children back for their weekly children's liturgy on a Sunday morning. As the Pope's Prayer Intention for January states: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Funeral Service for Herbert Dobree RIP.

Thankyou to all that were able to attend the service for Herbert last Monday. It was wonderful to see so many of our parishioners and friends of Herbert's come together to pray and give thanks to God for Herbert. May we continue to keep Herbert's family and friends in our prayers as they come to terms with their loss and may we keep Herbert in our prayers as we celebrate our weekly Mass.



Pope's Prayer Intentions for January: For Educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



Italy 2023

Nine parishioners along with Fr Mathew have booked their flights for Italy in April 2023 and recently secured accommodation for the various cities we will be visiting. If travellers could aim to pay 50% of their balance by the end of February and the final balance by the end of March ahead of our trip on 10th April. See Sue for details.



Readers Rotas January to June 2023

Thankyou to those who have offered their time to read at our Sunday Masses. A rota covering January to June 2023 is available at the back of church today. If you cannot make your rostered day then please arrange to swop with someone ahead of the date. Thank you.

"Lord, I thank you for this new day. I know that you love me, You look at me at this moment and want this day to be a brand new beginning with "a future full of hope".

Whatever I have to face today, one thing I know is that you will be there with me as my best friend, helping, consoling, strengthening, healing and guiding me.

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work. I give you my feet to go your way. I give you my eyes to see as you do. I give you my tongue to speak your words. I give you my mind that you may think in me. I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.

Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all humankind. I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me this day. Amen